ing in view the delay in the LCA project; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF- DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) the phasing out of old aircraft and planning for the induction of new ones is an ongoing process, related to the operational requirements of the IAF. Decisions regarding outright purchases and/or licenced manufacture are based on techno-economic viability assessments.

Performance of LCA

1565. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner the LCA compare in performance with the F-22 fighter which has already completed its development programme;

(b) what improvement in performance, if any, will the LCA have over the Mirage 2000 and Mig-29;

(c) who are the foreign consultants for the LCA design programme; and

(d) what is the indigenous element of aesign that is going into the LCA?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) F-22 is a 25 ton weight Advanced Technical Fighter Aircraft meant for long range operations/deep penetration and area defence. LCA is an 8 ton weight aircraft optimised for tactical role. Thus perfor mance of the two aircraft is not comparable on like-to-like basis as these are of two different class.

(b) I CA is designed to have better turn rat-is, accelerations and low radar cross-section. It also caters for better technolotical and operational features compared to Mirage-2000 and Mig-29.

(c) General consultancy from M/s Ericssons of Sweden and AMD-BA of France was availed during Project Definition Phase (PDP) of the Project. For detailed design and development of LCA, no general consultant from abroad is envisaged. In areas like control integration and radar, limited consultancy would be sought on "as required basis

(d) LCA is being developed mainly based on Indian design capabilities. This is true of aerodynamic design, structural design, digital avionic systems, mission computer, powerplant and other significant sub-systems for the LCA. Inevitably the LCA. tike most other fighter development programmes. has to depend on import of seme sub-systems and components; some of these for the prototype phase only.

Drive against ghost family units and ration cards

1566. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to launch any drive in Delhi and other parts of the country to unearth ghost family units and ration cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) State Governments and UT Administrations, who are primarily responsible for the implementation of PDS, have been requested to take steps to weed out bogus ration cards/units so that only genuine consumers get their entitlement.

Reports received from most of the State Governments and UT Administrations, including Delhi Admn. indicate that a considerable number of bogus ration cards/units are being weeded out as an on going process.